

At the Theatres This Week--And Soon

EMPIRE THEATRE.
All the week with daily matinees
Lucille La Verne Stock Company, with
John Bunny.

LYRIC THEATRE.
All the week with daily matinees
popular vaudeville and pictures.

SUPERIOR THEATRE.
Pictures.

Lucille La Verne Stock Company.

Opens at Empire With John Bunny.
On Monday afternoon, August 17, the Lucille La Verne Company will open the Empire Theatre. The opening will be preceded by William Riddell, the manager, a novel in the extreme and deserves special attention. Nothing of its kind has ever been offered to the theatre patrons of Richmond before.

John Bunny, in person, is the chief attraction. The comedian is also in his comedy and also in his sketch, "The Honeymooners." Wherever the motion picture machine dashes its shadows on the screen, John Bunny is an overwhelming favorite. His face and form have provoked screams of laughter in both the old world and the new, but never before has Richmond had the opportunity to see him in the flesh, though for a whole season he played his sketch, "The Honeymooners," at the Virginia Theatre in New York, and was forced to return three times to demandments to present his monologue.

Mary Miles Minter, acknowledged to be one of the greatest child actresses in the world, will be seen in the famous one-act drama, "The Littlest Rebel," by Edward Peple, the Richmond author. It was this one-act drama that Mr. Peple elaborated into the story of the same name in which Miss Minter made such a tremendous success. Miss Minter will be a member of the Lucille La Verne Company for a limited engagement of three weeks.

And Miss La Verne, just but by no means last, will present "Diagnosis," the famous thriller from the Little Theatre of Philadelphia. John Culpepper, a local boy who will appear in "Diagnosis," is well known to theatregoers here, having often appeared with Miss La Verne in the past.

Mattie Rooney plays the part of the mother in the sketchy part for which she is especially adapted, as it gives her an opportunity to run the gamut of emotions.

Manager Hofheimer has had a corps of decorators and carpenters at work on the interior of the theatre for the past month, under his personal direction. The work has progressed rapidly, so that now he is able to promise as many surprises in the auditorium as Miss La Verne promises for the stage. A large cooling plant is installed in the theatre and the temperature is guaranteed to be at least ten degrees cooler in the theatre than in the street. There is a cool air out under every seat. The side room is more than ample. The seats are roomy and comfortable; in fact, no expense has been spared to make the coming season a genuine success.

Miss La Verne has surrounded herself with a company that is sure to prove to be the most popular that has ever visited Richmond. The company of handsome men and women all young in years but old in their art, every one of whom, it is predicted, will have a host of personal friends before the season is fully begun. Miss Viola Elsmere was engaged by the New York Times one of the twelve most beautiful voices of America. Geddy is the name that made Miss Elsmere famous. Jack Cross, a protege of the world-renowned critics in one of New York's most artistic salons. In fact, everything will be in keeping with Miss La Verne's policy of the best and nothing but the best.

There will be a matinee every day during the Bunny engagement.

At the Lyric.
Novelties and variety are the keynote of the symphony of music, music, crockery, records, gymnastic feats and singing arranged for this week's offering at the Lyric Theatre by Clayton Kennedy and Mattie Rooney.

This unique combination is announced in the programme for the first half of the week, commencing with two original sketches of Clayton Kennedy and Mattie Rooney. These artists appear in an original instance to which they have given the title "The Happy Twins." They entertain with slight dancing and the greatest of merriment or mirth, farce. The artist of Rooney has been prominent in the vaudeville world for three generations. Nat Rooney, her father, of Mattie, will be recalled by old playgoers as the most celebrated dancing comedian of his time. Mattie's talent is a unique and versatile dancer of delicate mirth and mirth. There will never a person who does not like himself or herself to a laugh or a smile. Mattie is the latest of young girls.



Lucille La Verne, who opens her stock season at the Empire on Monday.

Bunny, now accepted as one of the best dancers on the stage, Clayton Kennedy, her partner, excels as a something, but, nevertheless, a long way toward the success the act has achieved on the Keith circuit.

Another original team on the bill is Dearest and Chubot, two men, who

contortionist. He comes with the recommendation to Mangano Rex from the Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington Keith houses, where he has spent the last three weeks, that he is "quite a different contortionist." He is said to perform more evolutions and revolutions in his act than the combined armies in Europe have executed since the war began.

Then there are Neving and Erwood, who will present the sketch, "The Coal Man and the Maid." They are singers, dancers and trapeze performers, and their impersonations of the "coal black coal" and the "yellow gal" are said to be exquisitely funny.

Last, but far from least on the bill for the first half of the week, the Juggling McNaulls, who will bid for favor. There are four of these canny Scots, and they are fresh from the Edinburgh, London and Liverpool music halls. They work at a rapid pace from the opening of their exhibition to the close.

For the latter half of the week, beginning with the matinee, another entire array of attractions is announced. A big feature of the show will be the Four McNallys, who are said to be capable of putting on an entire vaudeville show themselves, ask-

ing only time to change costume occasionally. The repertoire of enter-tainment embraced in the act includes comedy, wire walking, ground and lofty tumbling, living statue, posturing, acrobatic work and feats of strength and daring.

Lionized and Louie, equilibrists, hand and head balancers and acrobats, will open the new show. Then comes a dainty and artistic offering in the person of Hone Vernon, chanteuse and violinist. Her beauty is said to contribute to her popularity with audiences throughout the country, to the same degree as her art.

Opposite, Gollum, in the role in which a trio of singers, dancers and comedy character men are killed. They are given the third number on the program, which spot would seem to guarantee their capacity to make good.

Hathaway and Sykes, who round out the show, are a comedian and a pietrino, who have an act replete with wit and originality, and their peculiar talents in the tumbling line.

All in all, the two shows at the Lyric this week bid fair to catch the popular fancy.

Rehearsals will begin next week for the evening performance of the Grace Scott players.

Virginia Perry and Dorothy Chesmond are the two new additions among the women. Miss Perry will be second in command, and Miss Chesmond is to be a most delightful ingenue. Ned Crawford and Maid Atkinson will be remembered from last season's company. Leslie Bassett is also to return. John White will be director, and will be stage director. Mr. Lynch is too well known and has far too many friends to need further comment. His production of "The Littlest Rebel" will be the best kind. Herbert Cutts, well known locally, has been added to the cast. Alan Robison, the new juvenile, is sure to prove popular.

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